GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1248
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2001
SMUGGLING THROUGH SAMJHAUTA EXPRESS
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of smuggling is on the increase in Samjhauta Express during the last six months :

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether actions are being taken to prevent the smuggling; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (REVENUE) IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) : No sir.

(b) : Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) & (d) : A number of measures have been taken by Government in the recent past, to prevent smuggling through Samjhauta Express.

Some of the important measures taken in this regard are as under :-

(i) : Escorting of Samjhauta Express from zero point to Attari Road Land Customs Station and vice versa jointly by Customs and Border Security Force.

(ii) : 100% physical examination and screening through baggage X-ray machines of baggage imported by incoming passengers.

(iii) : Imposition of deterrent redemption fine and personal penalty on passengers carrying goods in trade/commercial quantities.

(iv) : Reduction of free baggage allowance from Rs. 12,000/- to Rs. 3,000/- in respect of passengers and tourists coming from Pakistan by land route.

(v) : Ban on entry of railway coolies at platform no. 2 & 3 at Attari Railway Station.

(vi) : Holding of regular joint coordination meetings between officers of various enforcement agencies posted at Attari Railway Station, such as Customs, Immigration, I.B. and Police.

(vii) : Joint rummaging of Samjhauta Express by officers of Customs, GRP and Immigration.

(viii) : All the entry/exit gates of the Attari Railway Station are manned jointly by Customs, G.R.P. & Immigration.